

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00  
AGRE-00 /066 W  
-----108941 291029Z /10

R 281717Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5567  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL OPORTO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA  
USMISSION USNATO  
DIA WASHDC  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZ  
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 3209

EO 11652: XGDS-3  
TAGS: PINT, PO  
SUBJECT: CDS SATISFIED WITH GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

REF: LISBON A-86

SUMMARY: CDS PRESIDENT FREITAS DO AMARAL IS GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF PS-CDS GOVERNMENT AND WITH SOCIALIST PARTY COOPERATION. THE CENTER DEMOCRATS HAVE HAD FEWER INTERNAL PARTY PROBLEMS THAN EXPECTED, BUT HAVE LOST SOME GROUND IN CONSERVATIVE ECONOMIC GROUPS AND VOTER APPEAL. THE CDS RESPONSE TO CONSERVATIVE PRESSURES HAS NOT SERIOUSLY STRAINED THE PS-CDS ALLIANCE. END SUMMARY.

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1. SATISFACTION WITH GOVERNMENT: IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS, CDS PRESIDENT FREITAS DO AMARAL TOLD THE AMBASSADOR APRIL 21 AND CDS ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL RIBEIRO CASTRO AND CDS DEPUTY CUNHA REIS TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 21 AND 14 THE CDS WAS SATISFIED WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PS-CDS GOVERNMENT AND WITH SOCIALIST PARTY COOPERATION. FREITAS DO

AMARAL AND REIS SAID THAT THERE ARE ONLY TWO MINISTRIES WHICH HAVE PRESENTED DIFFICULTIES: AGRICULTURE, WHERE MINISTER SAIAS HAS BEEN TOO SLOW TO ACT, AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, WHERE MINISTER ARNAUT HAS PROMISED A NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES HAS RAISED EXPECTATIONS WHICH HE CANNOT MEET AND NEEDLESSLY ALARMED PHYSICIANS. REIS SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS PERFORMING WELL OVERALL AND WAS A SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT OVER THE FIRST SOARES GOVERNMENT, BUT THAT IT HAD NOT SUCCEEDED IN CHANGING ITS PUBLIC IMAGE.

2. MINOR PROBLEMS IN THE PARTY: ACCORDING TO REIS, RIBEIRO E CASTRO, AND PARTY LEADERS IN BRAGA CDS ACTIVISTS HAD WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS ACCEPTED THE ALLIANCE WITH THE SOCIALISTS. ACCORDING TO REIS, SOME PARTY CONSERVATIVES HAVE BEEN TOO OUTSPOKEN, I.E. DEPUTY LUCAS PIRES WHO TOLD A CDS RALLY THE CENTER DEMOCRATS WERE IN THE GOVERNMENT TO OPPOSE SOCIALISM MORE EFFECTIVELY. BUT, NEITHER PIRES NOR OTHER LEADING CDS CONSERVATIVES ARE NOW CHALLENGING CDS PRESENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT. RECENT RESIGNATIONS FROM THE GUARDA CDS DISTRICT COMMITTEE WERE DUE, ACCORDING TO CASTRO, TO A COMBINATION OF LOCAL PERSONALITY CLASHES AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH NATIONAL PARTY POLICY. CASTRO SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE CENTER DEMOCRATS HAS EXPECTED A 10-20 PERCENT DEFLECTION WHEN THEY JOINED GOVERNMENT AND WERE WILLING TO SHED A FEW OF THEIR MORE RIGHT-WING MEMBERS. CASTRO, WHO HAS RECENTLY BEEN CHARGED WITH IMPROVING THE CDS  
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ORGANIZATION, ADMITTED THE PARTY HAD A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE IT COULD MATCH THE LOCAL PARTY ORGANIZATIONS OF THE PS, PSD, AND PCP. CASTRO WAS SATISFIED WITH THE CDS ORGANIZATIONS ONLY IN BRAGA, AVEIRO, AND, DUE TO RECENT EFFORTS, IN SETUBAL.

3. RELATIONS WITH ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL GROUPS: CASTRO COMMENTED ON CDS RELATIONS WITH THOSE GROUPS WITH WHICH THE CENTER DEMOCRATS HAVE MAINTAINED GOOD RELATIONS IN THE PAST:  
--PORTUGUESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (CCP): RELATIONS WITH THE CCP REMAIN FAIRLY GOOD.  
--PORTUGUESE CONFEDERATION OF FARMERS (CAP): RELATIONS WITH CAP DETERIORATED WHEN CAP ADOPTED A HOSTILE ATTITUDE TOWARD AGRICULTURE MINISTER SAIAS. NONETHELESS, THE CDS CONTINUES TO MEET WITH CAP AND RECOGNIZES THAT MANY CDS MEMBERS ARE ACTIVE IN CAP. CONSEQUENTLY, THE CENTER DEMOCRATS RESPOND TO CAP CRITICISM BY CALLING FOR MORE VIGOROUS AGRICULTURE MINISTRY ACTION.  
--PORTUGUESE CONFEDERATION OF INDUSTRY (CIP): RELATIONS BETWEEN CIP AND CDS ARE HOSTILE DUE LARGELY TO THE ANTI-CDS AND PRO-SA CARNEIRO POSITIONS OF THE CIP-OWNED DAILY "JORNAL NOVO."

--THE CHURCH: THE CDS LEADERSHIP IS UNHAPPY OVER RECENT STANDS BY THE CHURCH CONDEMNING POLITICAL INTRIGUE AND OBJECTING TO PORTIONS OF THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED CIVIL CODE (REFAIR). FREITAS DO AMARAL MET RECENTLY WITH THE CARDINAL-PATRIARCH TO CHALLENGE THE CHURCH'S POSITION. CASTRO BELIEVED THAT FORMER PSD PRESIDENT SOUSA FRANCO MAY HAVE INFLUENCED THE CHURCH'S STANDS, BUT WITH SOUSA FRANCO ON THE SIDELINES, HE HOPED THE PSD'S INFLUENCE MIGHT BE WEAKENED.

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00  
AGRE-00 /066 W

-----110321 291028Z /23

R 281717Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5568  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
C/AMEMBASSY LONDON 4415  
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4. CDS RESPONSE TO PRESSURES: AT ITS APRIL 16 NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING IN FARO, THE CENTER DEMOCRATS RESPONDED TP PRESSURE FROM THE CHURCH BY POINTING TO ITS OWN PROPOSED BILL ON EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM AND BY ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE OBJECTIONS TO FAMILY LAW IN THE REVISED CIVIL CODE. THE CDS NATIONAL COUNCIL ALSO PICKED UP A CAP CONERN BY INSISTING ON RAPID RETURN OF RESERVE PROPERTIES TO FARMERS IN THE AGRARIAN REFORM AREA.

5. MILITARY IN CHECK: FREITAS DO AMARAL, CUNHA REIS, WHO MAINTAINS FREQUENT CONTACT WITH MAJ. CANTO E CASTRO, AND OTHER MILITARY RIGHT-WINGERS, AND RIBEIRO E CASTRO, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE NEPHEW OF FORMER FNLA COMMANDER SANTOS E CASTRO, DO NOT SEE THE THREAT FROM THE MILITARY RIGHT AS SERIOUS. BOTH REIS AND CASTRO VIEWED PROSPECTS OF AN ISOLATED MILITARY ADVENTURE AS GREATEST IN THE ARMY, BUT WERE CERTAIN EANES AND THE MILITARY COMMAND COULD CONTAIN ANY OUTBREAK EASILY. FREITAS DO AMARAL AND CUNHA REIS EXPRESSED GREATER CONCERN OVER THE DEMAGOGIC APPEALS OF SA CARNEIRO AND THE POSSIBLE DAMAGE TO PRESIDENTIAL AND GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY.

6. COMMENT: THE CDS HAS COME THROUGH ITS FIRST SEVERAL MONTHS IN GOVERNMENT IN REASONABLE GOOD SHAPE. THE PARTY HAS SUFFERED ONLY MINOR DAMAGE AND THE PSD, WITH ITS INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES, IS IN POOR SHAPE TO EXPLOIT CDS WEAKNESSES. THE CENTER DEMOCRATS, HOWEVER, HAVE SUFFERED SOME DAMAGE IN VOTER APPEAL AND IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH CONSERVATIVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL GROUPS. THE CDS RESPONSE TO CONSERVATIVE PRESSURE HAS NOT PLACED SERIOUS STRAINS ON THE PS-CDS ALLIANCE.  
BLOOMFIELD

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## Message Attributes

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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Subject:** CDS SATISFIED WITH GOVERNMENT RELATIONS  
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**To:** STATE  
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